

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 075244
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

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S/P: W A LAKE (SUBS)
H: N LEDSKY
PM: D GOMPERT
L: H HANSELL

-----107226 231900Z /45

Z 231850Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 075244

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SO, US, SA, MASS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH SOMALIS AND SAUDIS

1. WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE RECEIVING, IF POSSIBLE
PRIOR TO TODAY'S SCC MEETING AT 1015 ZULU, BOTH SPECIAL
PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY MOOSE'S AND AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN'S
VIEWS, NOW AFTER TIME FOR SOME REFLECTION, ON PRECISELY
WHAT INT:RPRETATION WE SHOULD PLACE ON THE RATHER
AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE IN THE SIAD LETTER (CONTAINED MOGADIS-
CIO 629). IF A MORE PRECISE COMMITMENT TO THE LANGUAGE
CONTAINED IN OUR LETTER SHOULD BE DEEMED ESSENTIAL, WHAT
METHOD OF SECURING SUCH AN UNAMBIGUOUS COMMITMENT WOULD
BE MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (REQUESTING A CLARIFICATION OF

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THEIR LETTER, ASKING SIAD'S COMMITMENT NOW TO AGREE TO AN
EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONTAINING OUR DESIRED LANGUAGE AT SUCH
TIME AS A LOA IS PREPARED, INDICATE TO SIAD THAT WE WILL
BE ADDING OUR LANGUAGE ONTO EACH LOA WE SIGN WITH SOMALIA
AND REQUIRING HIS AGREEMENT NOW TO SIGN LOA'S SO AMENED).
WOULD ADDITION LETHAL ITEMS TO IMMEDIATE PACKAGE HELP?

2. FOR SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY MOOSE: R: KHARTOUM
1305, IN DISCUSSION WITH SAUDIS ABOUT POSSIBL: US MILITARY
AID TO SOMALIA (CONTINGENT UPON RECEIPT BY US OF SATISFAC-
TORY ASSURANCES FROM THE SOMALIS), YOU SHOULD IN FIRST
INSTANCE URGE THEM TO PROVIDE FINAHCIN; NECESSARY

FOR US DIRECT TRANSFERS. YOU SHOULD ALSO SIGNAL TO THEM
THE PROBLEM OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT SAUDI THIRD-
COUNTRY TRANSFERS AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT, BUT YOU
MAY INDICATE THAT, DESPITE THAT PROBLEM, AND, AGAIN,
AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED THE NECESSARY SOMALI ASSURANCES,
WE WILL BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER, ON A CASE-BY-CASE
BASIS, REQUESTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA FOR TRANSFERS OF
DEFENSIVE US-ORIGIN ITEMS TO SOMALIA.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE THE SAUDIS TO APPROACH THE
SOMALIS TO INDICATE TO THEM THAT WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR
IN THE WAY OF ASSURANCES IS THE SORT OF COMMITMENT THE
US REQUIRES OF ALL RECIPIENTS OF US ARMS, MADE RATHER
MORE NECESSARY UNDER US LAW GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF
SOMALIA'S HISTORIC CLAIMS ON NEIGHBORING TERRITORY AND
THE RECENT OGADEN CONFLICT. WE HOPE THE SAUDIS WOULD BE
WILLING TO URGE SIAD BARRE TO MAKE REQUIRED COMMITMENTS
PERMITTING HIM TO OPEN RELATIONSHIP WITH US. WE BELIEVE
SAUDIS WILL SEE IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC AND POLITICAL ADVAN-
TAGE TO THIS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE EITHER
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SAUDIS OR SOMALIS THAT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD
INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS TANKS AND AIRCRAFT. VANCE

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